(ii) Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 has been suitably amended in December, 2006 to enable provision of support from Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) for Provision of Broadband connectivity to villages in a phased manner and induction of new technological developments in the telecom sector in rural and remote areas.

(iii) An Inter Ministerial Group (IMG) having representation from Ministry of Health, Home, Human Resource Development, Panchayati Raj and Department of IT has been formed to work out the requirements of various user Departments/Ministries for planning the roll out of Broadband infrastructure in rural areas with support from Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF).

(iv) USOF is also implementing a scheme for supporting shared infrastructure for mobile services in rural and remote areas which are not covered by wireless signal. This infrastructure will be used to provide Broadband connectivity from the newly covered Block/Taluka headquarters.

Third Generation Wireless Communication Services

1222. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH:
SHRI AMAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had received any recommendations from TRAI regarding 3rd Generation Wireless Communication Services in September, 2006;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) by when the licences are expected to be awarded and to how many operators;

(d) whether Government are considering to allow foreign operators for 3G services and if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to accommodate one of its Public Sector Undertakings therein;

(f) the other players who are likely to be accommodated therein; and

(g) by when the process of licensing is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The main recommendations made by TRAI in September, 2006 regarding the spectrum for 3G services are given in the Statement (*See* below).

(c) to (g) A Committee constituted to examine these TRAI Recommendations, taking into account various relevant issues, has submitted its report. The spectrum allotment guidelines for 3G services would be framed taking into account all relevant aspects.

Statement

The main recommendations made by TRAI on spectrum for 3G services:

- Spectrum identified for 3G should be treated as a stand alone allocation and not as an extension of earlier spectrum allocation of 2G;
- The DOT (Government) should realize a spectrum acquisition fee from telecom service providers;
- Following spectrum has been identified for 3G services:
  - 2 x 25 MHz in 2.1 GHz band.(5 blocks of 2 x 5 MHz);
  - 2 x 2.5 MHz in 800 MHz band (2 blocks of 2 x 1.25 MHz);
  - 2 x 5 MHz in 450 MHz band (Single block of 2 x 5 MHz);
- Rural roll out obligations have been recommended as part of overall roll out obligations in a time-bound manner;
- Base price for acquisition of spectrum for 3G has been recommended as Rs. 80 crore for Delhi, Mumbai and category 'A' circles/areas; Rs. 40 crore for Chennai, Kolkata and category 'B' circles/areas; and Rs. 15 crore for category 'C' circles/areas;
- Stiff penalty for hoarding (of spectrum) and non-compliance of roll out obligations;
- The Organisation of Spectrum management needs to be strengthened.

IT park in Gulbarga

1223. SHRI K.B. SHANAPPA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to start an IT park in Gulbarga (Karnataka);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMED): (a) Yes, Sir. There is a proposal to setup a Software Technology Parks of India (STPI) Centre at Gulbarga (Karnataka).

(b) The proposal bas been approved by the Governing Council of STPI. Government of Karnataka has identified the land and the same will be allotted to STPI shortly.

(c) Does not arise.